GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
BOGUS RATION CARDS
Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent surveys have indicated large scale prevalence of bogus ration cards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued directions/suggestions to the States to launch a drive for review of list of Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries and for the cancellation of bogus ration cards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto indicating the number of bogus ration cards detected and cancelled during the last two years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 390 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21.04.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has recently submitted a report on concurrent evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in six States, namely, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Based on its estimation of number of families in the country in 2006, NCAER in its report has drawn an inference about 2.3 crore excess ration cards in the country during that year in comparison with the estimated families. However, this inferred number is of excess ration cards and not of bogus ration cards.

(c) & (d): Based on findings of earlier evaluation studies on TPDS conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and ORG MARG, a 9-point action plan evolved for strengthening TPDS is under implementation by State and UT Governments. As part of this action plan, State and UT Governments have been directed to continuously review lists of BPL and AAY families to eliminate bogus ration cards so that only eligible BPL and AAY families be covered under TPDS. As a result of such review, 13 State Governments have reported detection and deletion of 67.455 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards since July, 2006. A statement containing details of the deleted ration cards is annexed.

Instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.